



“To Honor Those Who Serve, Past, Present & Future”

March 2012

Volume 13, Issue 3

**Lest We Forget —
“The USSVI Submariner’s Creed”**

To perpetuate the memory of our shipmates who gave their lives in the pursuit of their duties while serving their country. That their dedication, deeds, and supreme sacrifice be a constant source of motivation toward greater accomplishments. Pledge loyalty and patriotism to the United States of America and its Constitution.

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News Brief

1. **Next Meeting:** At 1200, third Saturday of each month at the Knollwood Sportsman’s Club. Mark your calendars for these upcoming dates:
 - a. MARCH 17
 - b. APRIL 21
 - c. MAY 19
2. **Duty Cook Roster:**
 - a. March – Bob Fleck
 - b. April – Chris Gaines
 - c. May – Clay Hill
3. **March Birthdays:** Mike Barney 3rd; Chris Gaines 13th; Richard Huntinghouse 14th; Charlie Wedel 17th; Tom Oker 17th; Everett Weaver 19th; and Richard Smiskol 26th.
4. Great Lakes Base is hosting a **joint meeting of nearby bases** on May 12, 2012 at the American Legion Hall in Mukwonago, WI. Members of Crash Dive, USS Chicago, Wisconsin, and Great Lakes Base, and their wives, are invited. See information on page 8.
5. Chris Gaines needs old Crash Dive newsletters, those prior to 2002. If you have a copy to share, please contact Chris.

CRASH DIVE BASE WEBSITE: WWW. CRASHDIVEBASE.COM

Crash Dive Meeting Minutes February 18, 2012

A. Attendees

1. Clay Hill
2. Frank Voznak, Jr.
3. Glenn Barts, Sr.
4. Scott Jaklin
5. Owen Williams
6. Gary Walters
7. Greg Miller
8. Rich Behnke
9. John Moody
10. Chris Gaines
11. Frank Walter
12. Bret Zacher
13. Gus Yakes

B. The meeting was called to order at 1202 by Clay Hill, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance, invocation, a Moment of Silence, and a round of introductions.

C. Secretary's Report was given by Chris Gaines.; January minutes were published in the newsletter. Frank Voznak moved to accept, Scott Jaklin seconded; vote was unanimous.

D. Treasurer's Report was given by Glenn Barts, Sr.. Savings \$1173.69 checking \$4007.21; Frank Walter moved to accept; Gary Walters seconded; vote was unanimous

E. Committee Reports

1. Newsletter – no report
2. Membership
 - a. Lost one national; four base dinks

- b. New dual-base member Len Wass joined
3. Charitable Service – collecting goods for Navy Relief at every meeting; made donation to USO at O'Hare; looking for toiletries and dental supplies for USO; Great Lakes Base solicits and accepts used eyeglasses for reuse.
4. Hospitality - no report
5. Webmaster – Chris Gaines reported his desire to create parallel base Websites (USSVI and CrashDiveBase.com) and ask members to select their favorite.
6. Storekeeper – no report
7. Bylaws – Note that Frank Walter is proficient in Roberts Rules
 - a. Owen said bylaws should supersede Roberts if an item is not addressed.
 - b. Memorial Committee – waiting to meet with cognizant alderman; need an architect; making contact with the submarine recycling program at Puget Sound Naval Shipyard; Gary Walters can assist in powder coating if needed; Gary also has contacts for acquiring artifacts due to his work on the sail of the USS Cincinnati; Clay discussed the Rasher parts at the Museum and his

desire to contact their alumni committee. Frank drafted a flowchart of important decisions and steps for the memorial project.

F. Old Business

1. Owen said that he formed WI base in 1992; there was a national conference in Manitowoc; then the Great Lakes Base was formed to attract active duty sailors.

G. New Business

1. 50-50 won by Glenn Barts.
2. Base Communications
 - a. Picnic third Saturday in August; Chicago Base cooks, Crash Dive provides beer and beverages; likely will have a short base meeting at the picnic.
 - b. IL WWII Christmas Party set for Saturday, December 15, 2012
 - c. Crash Dive Christmas Dinner set for Saturday, December 8, 2012
3. Social Event at Mukwonago American Legion report by Gary Walters. May 12, 2012; will discuss and share news about various projects for each base; Ladies' Auxiliary will provide a fine dinner for \$10pp; Chris Gaines will take Crash Dive reservations and report headcount to Gary Walters by end of April; the Great Lakes Base Float Fund will

provide beer and soft drinks; start at 1200. Gary empowers us to invite USS Chicago Base. Scott Jaklin to invite Vic VanHorn. Gary has designed and installed an outstanding submarine display in the AL hall.

4. Bret suggests asking USSVI if they will be our banker and hold funds as they are donated, send tax letters, etc. Chris Gaines to ask Vic how feasible it is for USSVI to be our project financial manager.
5. End-of-Year report for national – being worked on.
6. Tax deductible status – Researching
7. Rasher parts – Clay will contact Rasher crew.
8. LCD projector – researching possible purchase for Base use. It would assist presentations for the Memorial Project for example. Estimate \$600. Scott Jaklin moves to fund \$100 and share its use, with Great Lakes Base. Gary Walters seconded and offered \$200 from the Submarine Float Fund. Bret seconded. Vote was unanimous. Each base will own half of the projector.

H. Good of the Order

1. Duty cook
 - a. March - Bob Fleck
 - b. April – Chris Gaines

- c. May – Clay Hill
- 2. Bret Zacher paid three years base dues in cash; handed to treasurer.
- 3. Clay should advise Vic of his invitation to join the WI Maritime Museum Board, particularly if he accepts.
- 4. KSC Corn Roast will be August 25 per KSC president Frank Bock.
- 5. KSC Field Day in spring. Be ready to volunteer.
- 6. The USS Wisconsin Float Fund (Gary Walters) donated \$200 toward purchase of an LCD projector. Check given to treasurer.
- I. Benediction.
- J. Adjourn at 1405.

Lost Boats

USS Perch	(SS 176)	3/3/42
USS Grampus	(SS 207)	3/5/43
USS H-1	(SS 28)	3/12/20
USS Triton	(SS 201)	3/15/43
USS Kete	(SS 369)	3/20/45
USS S-4	(SS 23)	3/25/15
USS Tullibee	(SS 284)	3/26/44
USS Trigger	(SS 237)	3/26/45

Chaplains Corner

March has arrived and it is hard to believe that it isn't May. I hope everyone is enjoying the weather and getting out and taking care of the garden.

This last month we have one Sickness to report, Frank Voznak's Mother-In-Law is in rehab. She experienced a medical problem and is recovering well. Our prayers go out to her and the family. While we are on the subject of Frank's family his son Frank's wife gave birth to twins and everyone is doing well.

With that as always I will keep this short and wish everyone good health and as always we should keep all of our people in uniform in our prayers.

Glenn C. Barts, Sr
Chaplain

Continuing Navy Relief

Submitted by: Greg Miller

Just a reminder that even though the holiday season is over, we are continuing to collect for Navy & Marine Corp Relief. Bring anything you would like to donate to our regular meeting and it will be collected and held over by Greg Miller until there is enough to make the trip and drop off our collection.

Needed items include small kitchen appliances such as crock pots, frying pans, can openers, dishes, pots and pans, silverware, and general kitchen stuff, linens in good condition, especially bed linens. A general guideline to use is to imagine what a family which has been transferred here from another part of the country might need immediately. That situation puts a lot of our active duty personnel in a financial squeeze. The hope is that

material support might ease part of the burden.

Things that the thrift store WILL NOT TAKE:

Toys, Furniture, Undergarments, Religious items, Soiled items or in non-working condition, Appliances, Bikes, Very large items

Floor space is quite limited, which is why they don't take furniture and some kitchen appliances. Also, all items MUST BE CLEAN.

Items for donation will be collected at our regular meetings. Any questions, just contact me at:

fourkats4me@yahoo.com or (630)543 7855.

Thanks and fair winds

Greg Miller
Charitable Contributions Chairman

Memorial Update

Submitted by: Frank Voznak, Jr.

A meeting with Alderman Brendan Reilly of the Ward in which our Memorial, if it is approved by the City, will be located, will be held at City Hall on March 27th, 2012. Attending will be Clayton Hill and Frank Voznak from Crash Dive Base, and Ken Tupman of USS Chicago Base. Our focus will be to not only promote our Memorial, but to show a little of the USSVI history and our purpose.

If, when, and once we get the necessary approvals, we will then set up a forum and discuss ways to start

funding our project. Any ideas from the membership will be appreciated. Until that time however, we're on hold. We should be in a better position to know exactly where we stand by our next meeting.

Copy of Your Military Records

How does a veteran apply for a copy of his military service records? Can this be done online? How does the National Military Personnel Records Center (NPRC), operated by the National Archives, in St. Louis process these requests? How many requests are received each week? And how long does it take? Find out at:

<http://www.archives.gov/press/press-releases/2011/nr11-20.html>

Navy getting close on making super-powerful gun

Associated Press Wednesday, February 29, 2012

A super-powerful gun that shoots rounds more than 100 miles away _ at several times the speed of sound _ is being developed for Navy warships.

The weapon is known as an electromagnetic railgun. It consists of parallel rails and uses a magnetic field and electric current, instead of chemicals, to generate energy to fire the rounds with.

The Navy said Tuesday an industry-built prototype of the gun is being tested at the Naval Surface Warfare Center Dahlgren Division in northern Virginia. At this stage, they're focused on measuring the gun's barrel life and structural integrity because it is capable of firing rounds at up to 5,600 miles per hour, or more than seven times the speed of sound. More research and development is needed to over the next five years to ensure the weapon can cool down

and handle repetitive fire. The Navy wants to be able to fire 10 rounds a minute.

They're also working to ensure that the roughly 40-pound metal projectile the gun will ultimately fire can withstand the heat and G-forces from the launch and will not disintegrate. And they need to make sure any electronics in the projectile, such as a GPS system, are safe.

Navy researchers said the weapon's high-velocity and range would allow ships to provide support for Marines storming a beach. It could also target enemy ships and provide self-defense against cruise and ballistic missiles.

Currently, 5-inch guns on destroyers have a range of about 15 miles.

"As you can see, it represents a significant increase in range," Roger Ellis, the Office of Naval Research's electromagnetic railgun program manager, said in a conference call with reporters.

Ellis said that because the gun can fire at such high speeds, it wouldn't necessarily have to shoot an explosive to inflict damage, either. He would only say that it would carry a "lethal mechanism."

The Navy has been developing the weapon since 2005 at a cost of about \$240 million. Similar funding is expected to keep the program going through 2017, when the Navy anticipates the weapon will be ready. It could still take several more years before the gun is put on ships.

The 40-foot-long gun being tested more closely mirrors a final product than previous versions. It has been test fired six times since last week.

A second industry-built prototype will be delivered to the Navy for testing in April.

General Atomics, one of the companies providing a prototype, has also invested \$20 million.

"We believe this is definitely a game changing capability that'll enable our forward presence and freedom of the seas," said Tom Hurn, director of railgun

programs, for General Atomics, one of the two companies providing a prototype.

Read more: [Navy getting close on making super-powerful gun](http://www.herald-review.com/news/national/navy-getting-close-on-making-super-powerful-gun/article_cfaea947-6e7c-54b8-9311-b27e856fdabd.html#ixzz1nq49WMnM) http://www.herald-review.com/news/national/navy-getting-close-on-making-super-powerful-gun/article_cfaea947-6e7c-54b8-9311-b27e856fdabd.html#ixzz1nq49WMnM

From the Herald & Review

Need Old Base Newsletters

Submitted by: Chris Gaines

To complete one aspect of our base files, I am trying to compile a complete set of newsletters. I do have a pretty good set, but lack some of the early years.

If anyone has newsletters earlier than Volume 3 Issue 1 that was published in January 2002, please let me know.

Submarine escape: A WWII survival tale from Kefalonia

Seventy years ago, off the Greek island of Kefalonia, the British submarine HMS Perseus hit an Italian mine, sparking one of the greatest and most controversial survival stories of World War II.

The clear waters of the Mediterranean were a death trap for British submarines in World War II.

Some were bombed from the air, others hunted with sonar and depth charges, and many, perhaps most, collided with mines.

Two fifths of the subs that ventured into the Mediterranean were sunk and when a submarine sank it became a communal coffin – everyone on board died. That was the rule.

In fact, during the whole of the war there were only four escapes from stricken

British submarines. And the most remarkable of these took place on 6 December 1941, when HMS Perseus plummeted to the seabed.

Enigma

When she left the British submarine base at Malta at the end of November 1941, HMS Perseus had on board her 59 crew and two passengers, one of whom was John Capes, a 31-year-old Navy stoker en route to Alexandria.

Tall, dark, handsome and a bit of an enigma, Capes had been educated at Dulwich College, and as the son of a diplomat he would naturally have been officer class rather than one of the lowliest of the mechanics who looked after the engines.

On the rough winter night of 6 December, Perseus was on the surface of the sea 3km (two miles) off the coast of Kefalonia, recharging her batteries under cover of darkness in preparation for another day underwater.

According to newspaper articles Capes later wrote or contributed to, he was relaxing in a makeshift bunk converted from a spare torpedo tube when, with no warning, there was a devastating explosion.

The boat twisted, plunged, and hit the bottom with what Capes described as a “nerve-shattering jolt”.

His bunk reared up and threw him across the compartment. The lights went out.

Capes guessed they had hit a mine. Finding that he could stand, he groped for a torch. In the increasingly foul air and rising water of the engine room he found “the mangled bodies of a dozen dead”.

But that was as far as he could get. The engine room door was forced shut by the pressure of water on the other side. “It was creaking under the great pressure. Jets and trickles from the rubber joint were seeping through,” said Capes.

He dragged any stokers who showed signs of life towards the escape hatch and

fitted them and himself with Davis Submarine Escape Apparatus, a rubber lung with an oxygen bottle, mouthpiece and goggles.

This equipment had only been tested to a depth of 100ft (30m). The depth gauge showed just over 270ft, and as far as Capes knew, no-one had ever made an escape from such a depth.

In fact the gauge was broken, over-estimating the depth by 100ft, but time was running out. It was difficult to breathe now.

He flooded the compartment, lowered the canvas trunk beneath the escape hatch and with great difficulty released the damaged bolts on the hatch.

He pushed his injured companions into the trunk, up through the hatch and away into the cold sea above. Then he took a last swig of rum from his blitz bottle, ducked under and passed through the hatch himself.

“I let go, and the buoyant oxygen lifted me quickly upward. Suddenly I was alone in the middle of the great ocean.

“The pain became frantic, my lungs and whole body as fit to burst apart. Agony made me dizzy. How long can I last?”

“Then, with the suddenness of certainty, I burst to the surface and wallowed in a slight swell with whitecaps here and there.”

But having made the deepest escape yet recorded, his ordeal was not over.

His fellow injured stokers had not made it to the surface with him so he found himself alone in the middle of a cold December sea.

In the darkness he spotted a band of white cliffs and realised he had no choice but to strike out for those.

Story doubted

The next morning, Capes was found unconscious by two fishermen on the shore of Kefalonia.

For the following 18 months he was passed from house to house, to evade the

Italian occupiers. He lost 70lb (32kg) in weight and dyed his hair black in an effort to blend in.

He recalled later: “Always, at the moment of despair, some utterly poor but friendly and patriotic islander would risk the lives of all his family for my sake.

“They even gave me one of their prize possessions, a donkey called Mareeka. There was one condition attached to her – I had to take a solemn vow not to eat her.”

He was finally taken off the island on a fishing boat in May 1943, in a clandestine operation organised by the Royal Navy.

A dangerous, roundabout journey of 640km took him to Turkey and from there back to the submarine service in Alexandria.

Despite being awarded a medal for his escape, Capes’s story was so extraordinary that many people, both within and outside the Navy, doubted it.

Was he really on the boat at all? After all, he was not on the crew list. And submarine commanders had been ordered to bolt escape hatches shut from the outside to prevent them lifting during depth charge attacks.

There were no witnesses, he had a reputation as a great storyteller, and his own written accounts after the war varied in their details.

And the depth gauge reading 270ft made his story all the harder to believe.

John Capes died in 1985 but it was not until 1997 that his story was finally verified.

In a series of dives to the wreck of Perseus, Kostas Thoctarides discovered Capes’s empty torpedo tube bunk, the hatch and compartment exactly as he had described it, and finally, his blitz bottle from which he had taken that last fortifying swig of rum.

Tim Clayton is the author of *Sea Wolves: the Extraordinary Story of Britain’s WW2 Submarines*.

Joint Base Meeting Planned

Submitted by: Gary Walters



A joint Submarine Veterans meeting is planned for 12 May 2012 at the American Legion Post 375 in Mukwonago, located on Hwy NN west of Hwy 83. United States Submarine Veterans from the Great Lakes Base (Caledonia WI), Crash Dive Base (Lake Bluff IL) and Wisconsin Base (Appleton WI) along with members of WWII Sub Vets, will be attending.

The General meeting will start @ 1200, with Commanders from each base conducting the meeting. A dinner provided by the American Legion Auxiliary will follow the short meeting, followed by some professional live entertainment.

Reservations made through each base, are required prior to May 1st. A \$10.00 per person with the reservation is asked to cover the cost of the dinner. Soft drinks, beer and the entertainment will be provided by the USS WISCONSIN (SSN908) Float Fund as plans for this season will be addressed.

Crash Dive members should contact Chris Gaines to make reservations. See contact information on page 9.

Church Ladies With Typewriters

They're Back! Those wonderful Church Bulletins! Thank God for church ladies with typewriters. These sentences (with all the BLOOPERS) actually appeared in church bulletins or were announced in church services:

The Fasting & Prayer Conference includes meals.

The sermon this morning: 'Jesus Walks on the Water.'
The sermon tonight: 'Searching for Jesus.'

Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.

Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our community. Smile at someone who is hard to love. Say 'Hell' to someone

who doesn't care much about you.

Don't let worry kill you off - let the Church help.

Miss Charlene Mason sang 'I will not pass this way again,' giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.

For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.

Next Thursday there will be tryouts for the choir. They need all the help they can get.

Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married on October 24 in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their school days.

At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be 'What Is Hell?' Come early and listen to our choir practice.

Crash Dive Base Contact Information

Commander – Clayton Hill, 195 Clover Lane, Cedarburg, WI 53012; 262-377-5332 (work number) or bisi@ameritech.net

Vice-Commander – Frank Voznak, 9 South 255 Madison, Burr Ridge, IL. 60527
630 986-0175 franklin2@comcast.net

Secretary (POC) – Chris Gaines, 513 West Downer Place, Aurora, IL 60506; 630-892-5718 or ccgaines@mindspring.com

Treasurer – Glenn C. Barts, Sr., 2000 Jamestown Drive, Palatine, IL 60074; 847-934-7418; gcbarts@msn.com

COB – Larry Warnke, l_warnke@msn.com

Chaplain – Glenn Barts, Sr.

Storekeeper – Herman Mueller, 503 Lynn Terrace, Waukegan, IL 60085; 847-445-5034; hermanandlorimueller@comcast.net

Newsletter Editor – Chris Gaines

Base Historian – Frank Voznak



APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Regular Life Associate

OUR CREED: "To perpetuate the memory of our shipmates who gave their lives in the pursuit of their duties while serving their country. That their dedication, deeds and supreme sacrifice be a constant source of motivation toward greater accomplishments. Pledge loyalty and patriotism to the United States of America & its Constitution."

With my signature below I affirm that I subscribe to the Creed of the United States Submarine Veterans, Inc., and agree to abide by the Constitution, all Bylaws, Regulations and Procedures governing the U.S. Submarine Veterans, Inc., so long as they do not conflict with my military or civil obligations. I will furnish proof of my eligibility for Regular membership, including my discharge under honorable conditions, and proof of my U.S. Navy (SS) Designation, if required by the Base or the national Membership Chairman. If I am not discharged, the discharge requirement is waived. If I am not U.S. N. submarine qualified, I am applying as an Associate and my sponsor is indicated below.

I certify that I was designated qualified in USN Submarines aboard _____ in _____ (Yr)
(Honorary designations regardless of source do not apply under any circumstances.)

I certify that I received a discharge under Honorable Conditions (if not currently in military service) in _____ (Yr)

Name: (Print /Type) _____ **Address:** _____

City: _____ **State:** ____ **Zip Code:** _____ - _____ **Tel:** (____) _____ - _____

Signature: _____ **Date:** ____/____/____

Your E-Mail Address _____ **Base/Chapter Desired:** _____

The Member Dues year runs from Jan 1st thru Dec 31st. Please indicate your term preference: _____
Nat'l Dues: 5 Yr term: \$ 90.00; 3 Yr term: \$ 55.00; 1 yr term (Jan thru Sep) \$ 20.00; (Oct thru Dec adds the next yr): \$ 25.00
Nat'l Life: 76+ yrs = \$100.00; 66 thru 75 yrs = \$200; 56 thru 65 yrs = \$ 300.00; 46 thru 55 = \$400.00; Thru 45 yrs = \$ 500.00
Local Base/chapter dues are separate and additional. Crash Dive Base dues are \$15 annually.

How did you find USSVI? Friend, Boat Assn, Local Event/News, Internet, Other (_____)

Who is your sponsoring USSVI Regular Member?: (Mandatory for Assoc Mbrs) _____

Associate Applicant is: Veteran Spouse of Veteran Other (specify) _____

YOUR U.S. NAVY BIOGRAPHICAL DATA

Date Of Birth (MM/DD/YY) ____/____/____ **If other military service, What Branch?** _____

Highest Rate & Rank Attained: _____ **Mil Retired (Y/N):** ____ **On Active Duty? (Y/N):** ____

YR entered Mil Service: ____ **YR left Mil Service** ____ (Active/Inactive reserve time also counts.)

Submarines and ships served aboard as ship's company (Use back if you need more space.)

1. _____ Hull# _____ From Yr. ____ to Yr. ____

2. _____ Hull# _____ From Yr. ____ to Yr. ____

3. _____ Hull# _____ From Yr. ____ to Yr. ____

4. _____ Hull# _____ From Yr. ____ to Yr. ____

5. _____ Hull# _____ From Yr. ____ to Yr. ____

Next of Kin: Name: _____ **Relationship:** _____ (Spouse, Partner, Son, Dau, Parent, Other)

Addr: _____ **City:** _____ **State:** ____ **Zip:** _____ **Tel:** _____

(Leave this address line blank if the same as your home address)

Applicants on active duty are requested to provide a permanent home address.

Upon completion, give this form, including your National and Base membership dues to the appropriate base officer. or mail to: Crash Dive Secretary. Chris Gaines. 513 W. Downer Place. Aurora. IL 60506: 630-892-5718